

In today's Jordan Times...

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
Jordanian Times: مؤسسة صحفية اردنية "الراي"

Today's Weather

It will be cooler, with some low clouds in the early morning and northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Table with 3 columns: Location, Overnight, Daytime. Locations include Amman, Aqaba, Deserts, Jordan Valley.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

Yemen receives Israeli envoy

Yemeni Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal Court of North Yemen presiding over the arrival of the Israeli envoy, Dr. Ahmad Al...

Yemen invites Israeli envoys

Yemeni Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal Court of North Yemen presiding over the arrival of the Israeli envoys...

Yemen Cup results

Yemen Cup results: England 2-1, Norway 2-1, Yugoslavia 2-1, etc.

Hassan confers with Qatari crown prince



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the visiting Qatari crown prince, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani inspect a guard of honour at Amman airport on the latter's arrival on Wednesday (Petra photo)

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the visiting Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani held talks here today on bilateral relations...

Jordan asks Arab League to appeal to world to stop Israel's Aqsa excavations

TUNIS, Sept. 9 (Agencies) - Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem asked the Arab League Council today to appeal to world opinion to pressure Israel into abandoning the 'profanation and Judaisation' of occupied Jerusalem.

Paris selects fighter pilot for joint Soviet space trip

PARIS, Sept. 9 (A.P.) - The French space agency today selected 41-year-old fighter pilot Jean-Louis Chretien to participate in a joint Franco-Soviet space mission...

Angola reports there're 15,000 S. African troops inside borders

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 9 (R) - Angola said today 700 people had been killed in Angola since the recent South African incursion and that 15,000 South African troops were still in Angola.

Angola reports there're 15,000 S. African troops inside borders

Angola's representative to the United Nations, Elisio de Figueiredo, told reporters South Africa may be trying to set up a buffer zone in southern Angola to be occupied by "renegades".

'Shameful forgeries and fabrications'

'Assassination' tale denied

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (J.T.) - Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh today denied a report in the Beirut daily As Safir about an alleged assassination attempt in Madrid against His Majesty King Hussein, and accused the newspaper of publishing "shameful forgeries and fabrications."

He was replying to a question by the Jordan news agency Petra about a report today in the leftist newspaper that King Hussein had escaped an attempt on his life in the Spanish capital on Saturday.

The meeting on the Jordanian side was attended by Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Radd Ibn Zaid, Finance Minister Salem Masadeh, Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat, Industry and Trade Minister Walid Asfour, President of the National Planning Council Hanna Odeh, the Director general of the Foreign Ministry, the vice-president of the Natural Resources Authority and the secretary general of the National Planning Council.

Sheikh Hamad, who is also the defence minister, was accompanied by Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani, and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture Ahmad Al Khawarizmi.

Sheikh Hamad and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman at noon today for a three-day visit. They were met at the airport by Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, cabinet members and senior government officials as well as members of diplomatic missions in Amman.

After the official reception ceremony at the airport, Sheikh Hamad expressed his pleasure for making the visit to Jordan to convey the greetings of the Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people and to discuss ways for further boosting bilateral relations.

Begin talks with Reagan but no one changes mind

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (R) - President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin presented opposing views today on the proposed sale of American radar planes to Saudi Arabia, but officials said their meeting was calm and without rancor.

Mr. Reagan replied that U.S. interests in the Middle East were far-reaching and the effort to achieve peace there "demands that these interests be reflected in our policies towards other nations in the region," the official said.

Khomeini threatens 'swordstrikes on head' as Mujahedeen leader calls for 'liberation'

BEIRUT, Sept. 9 (Agencies) - Iraq's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini today threatened to deal "incessant sword strikes on the head" to the secular leftist opponents of his fundamentalist regime.

Meanwhile, United Nations human rights panel urged U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today to make efforts to stop "systematic persecution" of Baha'is in Iran.

Sadat defends crackdown

ANWAR SADAT, Egypt, Sept. 9 (Agencies) - President Anwar Sadat today passionately defended his crackdown on religious extremists and political opponents and appealed to the West for understanding.

Mr. Sadat said he had not launched his purge because he felt his government was in danger but to save "misguided sons" attracted to the ranks of Islamic fundamentalist societies.

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Middle East Briefs

Syria extends territorial waters: BEIRUT, Sept. 9 (A.P.) - Syria has passed a law extending its territorial waters to 35 nautical miles instead of the current 12.

Sudan reports Chad rebels' victory: KHARTOUM, Sept. 9 (R) - Chadian rebels captured the town of Iriba from Libyan and Chadian government forces after a surprise attack last Tuesday.

Oman plans desert airline network: MUSCAT, Sept. 9 (R) - The Sultanate of Oman, which has only one regular air route, plans to link towns scattered over 300,000 square kilometres of Arabian desert by scheduled flights.

Angola reports there're 15,000 S. African troops inside borders: Angola's representative to the United Nations, Elisio de Figueiredo, told reporters South Africa may be trying to set up a buffer zone in southern Angola to be occupied by "renegades".

Angola reports there're 15,000 S. African troops inside borders: He was apparently referring to Angolans, such as the UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerrillas.

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Drugs: prescriptions and practices

By Dina Matar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As in many developing countries, the dispensing of medicine and drugs in Jordan has for long been arbitrary, and the laws controlling their sale somewhat lax. Many medicinal drugs have been sold over the counter with no prescription — even in the case of antibiotics, some of which are believed to have toxic side-effects.

No up-to-date law has yet been passed to restrict the dispensing and sale of drugs. The law promulgated by the Ministry of Health nine years ago is now obsolete since new brands and types of drugs have flooded the market.

The law does decree that tranquilisers, narcotics and antibiotics should not be sold without the prescription of a licensed doctor or hospital. Yet antibiotics have habitually been sold without a prescription in almost all of the 266 pharmacies in Jordan.

For pharmacists, whose role has over the years been slightly modified (these days pharmacists do not compound drugs) and for the patients — who are now more knowledgeable about diseases and health-related problems — the situation may be satisfactory; but it has led to some controversy.

Should a pharmacist dispense drugs without prescriptions and thus assume the role of a doctor? Or should he follow the prescription rules strictly?

Patients find it easiest just to go to the nearest pharmacy and ask for medication. The overcrowdedness of government clinics and the expensive treatment in the private and also crowded clinics have led most patients to seek more straightforward methods to cure their illnesses. As one pharmacy customer told the Jordan Times, "Why should I spend four

hours at a clinic waiting for a five-minute oral check-up? I would rather go to a pharmacy."

But, as the number of people consulting the pharmacist rather than the physician has grown, so has the need for experienced and professional pharmacists and assistants.

In Jordan, most pharmacists are trying to play a professional role, to provide the best service to the patient; and since the compounding of drugs is no longer a must, a pharmacist has more time to lend a sympathetic ear to the complaints of a customer. Yet, not all pharmacists are the same. Some just want to make a profit, and the quality of their services suffers.

The Ministry of Health has long been aware of the drug dilemma; and as reports of drug misuse have piled up, officials at the ministry have decided to do something about it.

New booklet

A special committee has been formed to deal with the problem, and a booklet on drugs is to be published soon. The booklet, which will list all the categories of drugs available in the Jordanian market, will serve pharmacists and doctors alike. The drugs will also be classified as either "over-the-counter" (OTC) or requiring a prescription.

According to Dr. Khalil Qataweh, head of the pharmacy and drug control department at the Ministry of Health, the booklet is "necessary in the absence of strict control, and nobody will be given excuses (for illegal dispensation) after it is distributed."

Dr. Qataweh noted that a shortage of pharmacy supervisors at the ministry has contributed to the looseness in control. "We have just two supervisors in Amman," he said, "and they do not have



The ease with which some prescription drugs are handed out contrasts sharply with the care taken in their formulation.

enough time to control all 136 pharmacies there and survey their dispensing of drugs."

Still, Dr. Qataweh believes that the new booklet will solve most of the problems, since less supervision will be required.

To date, no serious offenses have yet been reported at pharmacies with regard to narcotics, sedatives or habit-forming drugs.

But what about antibiotics? Many such drugs are sold over the counter with no prescription, and some doctors say that they have had cases of patients' misusing antibiotics.

The problem may not be as serious as it sounds. Both drug users and pharmacists are generally well aware of the dangers of antibiotics.

It is noticed, however, that while people of lower socioeconomic status — with less education — tend to consult a doctor before taking any drug, those with good financial means prefer to get medicine immediately from the pharmacy.

Dr. Kamal Tarazi, a general practitioner with a downtown clinic, says that the low-income

people are afraid of drugs, but high-income, educated people think they can treat themselves on their own.

"It is not only that — other factors play a role here," Dr. Tarazi told the Jordan Times. "Some people like to economise."

But according to Mrs. Samira Qussous, a pharmacist, "Jordan is still much better than other countries in the Middle East in this

respect." She says the pharmacist is more of a clinical pharmacist these days, in the sense that he takes the place of a doctor in comforting the patient.

Mrs. Qussous believes that the use of OTC medication will continue to increase as the public becomes more aware and knowledgeable about diseases. She also emphasises the fact that doctors do not usually have time to listen to prolonged complaints, and our patients need someone to listen to their problems.

Mrs. Qussous claimed that the patient-pharmacist relationship is becoming stronger than a doctor-patient relationship, simply because patients feel more at ease in pharmacies than in a doctor's clinic.

'A friendly chat'

"Of course, it is not the doctors' fault," she said. "While the number of patients has increased, social habits have remained the same; and in spite of the advanced technical equipment the doctors can use these days, a patient would still like a friendly chat."

"The pharmacist-doctor relationship is equally important," she added, "since (by talking with the physician) a pharmacist can acquire skills in the identification of illnesses, and can monitor the patient's compliance and response to medication."

Other pharmacists in Amman expressed similar views. Pharmacist Samir Sharaf said: "About 10 per cent of my daily customers buy over-the-counter medications" such as antibiotics.

Mr. Sharaf said that he had not received any regulations concerning the dispensing of drugs. "But," he remarked, "I usually rely on my common sense, and do not dispense dangerous medication without a prescription."

Mr. Sharaf, like most pharmacists in Amman, hands out prescription medication to regular customers and acquaintances (even in the case of sedatives/painkillers such as valium).

"In cases like these," he said, "we would know the patient extremely well, and would I have never dispensed the drug to just anybody who asks for it?"

On the other hand, pharmacists are strictly limited in the dispensing of any hard habit-forming drug, since the Ministry of Health keeps a vigilant eye on them.

Dr. Subell Khouri, a diologist internist told the Jordan Times he had faced some problems with patients who turned after taking the wrong medicine. "Antibiotics are sold far and although some are quite dangerous," he said. "But as far as drugs are concerned I am happy say that no problems have arisen."

Dr. Khouri asserted that if control over the dispensing of drugs had done much to solve the problem.

"And how could a patient tell that the drug he is taking is for him?" he asked. "He could possibly know the proper dose or at that, the side-effects of a drug."

Not all human bodies are the same, he pointed out. "It should stop telling a patient an antibiotic is like a miracle because not all bodies can take the same organisms, and it is thus not necessarily take the treatment."

In Jordan, antibiotics are being dispensed for many including minor illnesses as the common cold. Dr. Khouri said, "It is high time that the laws and regulations restrict uncontrolled dispensing of medicine, which might be dangerous in the long run."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION FOR THURSDAY

CHANNEL 3

- 4:30 Koran
- 4:45 Cartoon
- 5:10 Children's programme
- 6:55 Programme on Youth
- 7:25 Local programme
- 8:00 News in Arabic
- 8:30 Arabic series
- 9:30 Arabic Varieties
- 10:30 News in Arabic
- 11:00 News in Arabic
- 11:10 Cont. of the Play.

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 French Programme
- 7:00 News in French
- 7:30 News in Hebrew
- 8:30 Comedy: Mork & Minky
- 9:10 Hart to Hart
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Movie of the Week (Return from the past).

FOR FRIDAY

CHANNEL 3

- 10:00 Koran
- 10:20 Children's programme
- 11:00 Religious programme
- 12:20 Local programme
- 14:15 Soccer
- 16:00 Local programme
- 17:20 Arabic series
- 18:20 Local programme
- 19:00 Programme preview
- 19:15 Local programme
- 20:00 News in Arabic
- 20:30 Arabic series
- 21:30 Local programme
- 22:00 Arabic series
- 23:00 News in Arabic
- 23:30 Arabic songs

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 French Programme
- 7:00 News in French
- 7:30 News in Hebrew
- 8:30 Comedy
- 9:00 Crown Court
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Baretta

RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

FOR THURSDAY

- 7:00 Sign on
- 7:01 Morning Show
- 7:30 News Bulletin
- 7:40 Morning Show
- 10:00 News Summary
- 10:03 Pop Session
- 11:00 Signing off
- 12:00 News Headlines
- 12:03 Pop Session
- 13:00 News Summary
- 13:03 Pop Session
- 14:00 News
- 14:10 Instrumentals
- 14:30 Morecambe and wise show
- 15:00 Concert Hour
- 16:00 News Summary
- 16:03 Instrumentals
- 16:30 Old Favourites
- 17:00 Melody Time

FOR FRIDAY

7:00

- 7:01 Sign on
- 7:01 Morning Show
- 7:30 News Bulletin
- 7:40 Morning Show
- 10:00 News Summary
- 10:03 Pop Session
- 11:00 Listeners' Choice
- 12:00 News Headlines
- 12:03 Friday Special
- 13:00 News Summary
- 13:03 Pop Session
- 14:00 Instrumentals
- 14:10 In Concert
- 15:00 Concert Hour
- 16:00 News Summary
- 16:03 Instrumentals
- 17:00 Old Favourites
- 17:03 Pop Session
- 18:00 News Summary
- 18:30 Top Twenty
- 19:00 News Desk
- 19:30 World of Arabian Music
- 20:00 Andalusia
- 20:30 Special Feature
- 21:00 Jazz Hour
- 22:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE FOR THURSDAY & FRIDAY 639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT

- 04:30 Newsdesk 04:30 International Soccer Special 04:45 Financial News 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News; 24 Hours News Summary 05:30 Music from Scotland 05:45 The World Today 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Nature Notebook 06:40 The Farming World 07:00 World News; 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 Serenade 07:45 Network U.K. 08:00 World News; Reflections 08:15 International Soccer Special 08:30 John Peel 09:00 World News; British Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:40 Look Ahead 09:45 Rock Salad 10:15 Theme and Variations 10:30 My Music 11:00 World News; News about Britain 11:15 Meet 11:30 Business Matters 12:00 Radio Newsreel 12:15 Top Twenty 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 World News; 24 Hours News Summary 13:30 Network U.K. 13:45 The Pleasure's Yours 14:30 Discovery 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Outlook 16:00 World News; Commentary 16:15 Second Hearing-Thalidomide 16:45 The World Today 17:00 World News 17:09 Meridian 17:40 Waveguide 17:45 Sports Round up 18:00 World News; News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 Brain of Britain 19:00 Outlook: News

DEPARTURES

- 3:30 Cairo
- 5:45 Frankfurt (LH)
- 6:00 Beirut, Amsterdam (KLM)
- 7:00 Agaba
- 7:00 Damascus
- 7:15 Beirut
- 8:55 Cairo (EA)
- 9:00 Kuwait
- 9:25 Beirut (MEA)
- 9:45 Paris (AF)
- 10:10 Rome
- 10:30 Larnaca
- 11:00 Vienna, N. York, Chicago
- 11:15 Athens, Madrid
- 11:20 Tripoli, Tunis
- 11:30 Cairo
- 11:35 Paris (AF)
- 11:45 Geneva, Brussels
- 12:00 London
- 12:05 Riyadh (SV)
- 12:20 Frankfurt
- 12:25 Geneva, Zurich (PS)
- 12:30 Paris
- 12:40 Cairo (EA)
- 12:45 London (BA)
- 13:00 Cairo
- 16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
- 18:00 Baghdad (IA)
- 19:20 Dhahran
- 19:00 Kuwait
- 19:45 Baghdad
- 20:00 Cairo
- 20:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
- 20:30 Cairo (EA)
- 01:00 Cairo

SELECTED CHANGES FOR FRIDAY

- 04:30 Letter from London 5:30 Off the Beaten Track 06:30 Masters of Interpretation 07:45 Merchant Navy Programme 08:15 The Maid of the Mill 08:30 30-Minute Theatre 10:30 Many a Cross Word 11:25 Ulster News Letter 12:15 Jazz for the Asking 16:15 Science in Action 17:09 My Music 17:40 The Week in Wales 18:30 Talking about Music 21:00 Network U.K. 21:15 Time Off 21:45 Letter from London 23:15 From the Weeklies 23:30 In Remembrance of Things Past

VOICE OF AMERICA FOR THURSDAY & FRIDAY

GMT

- 05:30 Off the Beaten Track
- 08:15 One in Ten
- 12:15 Jazz for the Asking
- 13:30 Khalil of the Nomads
- 17:09 My Music
- 21:15 Time Off
- 23:30 Ralph Richardson Reads Maxwell

AMMAN AIRPORT FOR THURSDAY

ARRIVALS:

- 7:40 Cairo (EA)
- 8:45 Cairo
- 8:55 Agaba
- 9:20 Damascus
- 9:30 Jeddah
- 9:40 Kuwait
- 9:45 Muscat, Dubai
- 9:50 Doha, Bahrain
- 9:55 Beirut
- 10:00 Dhahran
- 10:05 Abu Dhabi
- 10:10 Beirut
- 11:05 Riyadh (SV)
- 11:40 Cairo (EA)
- 11:45 Rawalpindi (BA)
- 13:25 Larnaca
- 15:35 Kuwait (KAC)
- 16:30 Amsterdam (KLM)
- 16:30 Cairo
- 17:00 Agaba
- 17:15 Chicago, N. York, Vienna
- 17:25 London (BA)
- 17:30 Amsterdam, Beirut (KLM)
- 17:55 Cairo
- 18:30 Rome
- 19:10 Cairo (EA)
- 20:00 Beirut (MEA)
- 23:40 Cairo (EA)

ARRIVALS:

- 23:55 Baghdad
- 01:00 Cairo

FOR FRIDAY

ARRIVALS:

- 7:40 Cairo (EA)
- 8:55 Agaba
- 9:40 Kuwait
- 9:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi
- 10:00 Dhahran
- 10:10 Beirut
- 11:40 Cairo (EA)
- 15:35 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
- 15:45 Tripoli
- 16:30 Cairo
- 16:45 Tripoli, Tunis
- 17:15 Houston, N. York, Vienna
- 17:20 Kuwait (KAC)
- 17:30 Paris
- 17:35 Brussels, Geneva
- 17:40 Madrid, Athens
- 17:45 Frankfurt
- 17:55 Cairo
- 18:00 London
- 19:10 Cairo (EA)
- 19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
- 19:45 Paris (AF)
- 20:00 Beirut (MEA)
- 23:40 Cairo (EA)
- 23:55 Baghdad
- 01:00 Cairo

FOR FRIDAY

DOCTORS:

- Amman: 61111
- Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency): 36381-2
- Municipal water services (emergency): 37111-3
- Police headquarters: 39141
- Najdah roving patrol rescue police (English spoken): 21111, 37777
- Airport information (ALIA): 92202/92206
- Jordan Television: 73111
- Radio Jordan: 74111

TAXIS:

- Musa Malkawi: 2449
- Amman: 36730
- Qurraba: 73757
- Halal: 78911
- Khalaf: 78653

PHARMACIES:

- Amman: 61111
- Al Salam: 36730
- Qurraba: 73757
- Halal: 78911
- Khalaf: 78653
- Zarqa: 83744/83092
- Al Iqhad: 73141
- Irbid: 7751
- Abdul Hakim Al Afghani: 77751
- Fahr: 82757
- Musa Malkawi: 2449
- Amman: 36730
- Qurraba: 73757
- Halal: 78911
- Khalaf: 78653
- Zarqa: 83744/83092
- Al Iqhad: 73141
- Irbid: 7751
- Abdul Hakim Al Afghani: 77751
- Fahr: 82757
- Musa Malkawi: 2449

EMERGENCIES FOR THURSDAY

- 12:40 Cairo
- 13:00 Cairo
- 16:35 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
- 16:45 Kuwait (KAC)
- 18:25 Tripoli
- 18:50 Abu Dhabi
- 19:00 Kuwait
- 19:15 Riyadh (SV)
- 19:20 Bahrain, Doha
- 19:20 Dhahran
- 19:30 Jeddah
- 19:45 Baghdad
- 19:55 Abu Dhabi
- 20:00 Cairo
- 20:30 Dubai, Karachi
- 20:30 Cairo (EA)
- 23:30 Baghdad
- 01:00 Cairo (EA)

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- Fahr: 82757
- Musa Malkawi: 2449

CULTURAL CENTRES

- American Centre: 41520
- British Council: 36147-8
- French Cultural Centre: 37009
- Goethe Institute: 41993
- Soviet Cultural Centre: 42603
- Spanish Cultural Centre: 24049
- Turkish Cultural Centre: 39777
- Haya Arts Centre: 65195
- Husseini Youth City: 67181
- Y.W.C.A.: 41793
- Y.W.M.C.A.: 64251
- Amman Municipal Library: 36111
- University of Jordan Library: 84353/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

- Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
- Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
- Rotary Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
- Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

MUSEUMS

- Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash

PRAYER TIMES FOR THURSDAY

- Fajr: 5:51
- Sunrise: 5:17

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Ambulance (government): 75111
- Civil Defence rescue: 61111
- Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency): 36381-2
- Municipal water services (emergency): 37111-3
- Police headquarters: 39141
- Najdah roving patrol rescue police (English spoken): 21111, 37777
- Airport information (ALIA): 92202/92206
- Jordan Television: 73111
- Radio Jordan: 74111

MARKET PRICES

- Tomatoes: 80
- Eggplant: 50
- Bananas: 160
- Apples (Green): 240
- Apples (Red): 340
- Apples (local): 160
- Apples (Golden): 190
- Apples (Sturken): 190
- Melons: 110
- Water Melons: 100
- Pumpkins (Red): 300
- Lemons: 160
- Oranges (Valencia, Waxed): 250
- Oranges (Waxed): 250
- Cabbages: 160
- Onions (dry): 110
- Garlic: 650
- Carrots: 130
- Beans: 320
- Sweet Pepper: 120
- Bananas: 260
- Apples (Green): 340
- Apples (Red): 340
- Apples (local): 160
- Apples (Golden): 190
- Apples (Sturken): 190
- Melons: 110
- Water Melons: 100
- Pumpkins (Red): 300
- Lemons: 160
- Oranges (Valencia, Waxed): 250
- Oranges (Waxed): 250
- Cabbages: 160
- Onions (dry): 110
- Garlic: 650
- Carrots: 130
- Beans: 320

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

- Saudi riyal: 98.7
- Libanese pound: 71.67
- Syrian pound: 56.157
- Israeli sheqel: 72773
- Kuwaiti dinar: 1182.3/1192
- Egyptian pound: 375.838
- Qatari riyal: 92.4
- UAE dirham: 91.994
- Omani riyal: 97.56
- U.S. dollar: 3373
- U.K. sterling: 599.960
- W. German mark: 138.173
- Swiss franc: 159.310
- Italian lire: 27.677
- (for every 100)
- French franc: 124.412
- Dutch guilder: 64.276
- Swedish crown: 84.978
- Belgium franc: 144.514
- Japanese yen: 144.514
- (for every 100)

مكتبة الزمان

سكوات الامم

Jordan ranked third among phosphate exporting countries

(AN, Sept. 9 (J.T.)—Jordan ranked third among countries exporting phosphates last year, second among Arab states, according to a statistical bulletin issued in the local press. Jordan accounted for 1.1 per cent of the world's phosphate exports, making it third Morocco—which exported 33.2 per cent—and the United States with 33.2 per cent. The fourth-ranked country was Tunisia, each exporting 3.7 per cent, followed by Algeria (3.1 per cent) and Iraq (two per cent), according to the report.



Ali Nsour

Meanwhile, the director general of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), Mr. Ali Nsour, talks here today with Philip Pastores on increasing Jordan's phosphate exports to the United States. Nsour said in a newspaper interview recently that he expects to export nearly 6.1 million tonnes of phosphates annually in 1985. These exports will be worth at least JD 100 million, he said. Nsour said that some JD 60 million will be spent on expansion

projects at the mine sites over the next five years. These include the purchase of new machinery and equipment for the Ruseifa site, installing a computer centre, expanding housing and services at the housing estate at Al Hasa mines and an increase in JPMC investments in Jordanian companies. The company, he said, intends to open new markets for its phosphates in the Far East and Europe.

Jordan's agricultural income more than doubled under last five-year plan, report says

(AN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—Jordanian agricultural revenues increased from JD 26 million in 1975 to JD 60 million as a result of projects in the last five-year plan (1975-80), according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. This figure is equal to an increase of 18.3 per cent on current prices. The ministry attributed the increase to the expansion of the irrigated agricultural land

and the employment of modern methods in agriculture, despite droughts that hit the country during that period. The major agricultural projects implemented in the previous five-year plan, it said, concentrated on afforestation, the production of saplings and fruit trees, the reclamation of land, the construction of retaining walls and the planting of more than 100,000 dunams with vines, olives and other kinds of trees.

Power lines set humming by Jordan's heat wave

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The power load peaked above 200 megawatts on the evening of Monday, Sept. 7, when the capital consumed 3 million kilowatt hours, mainly due to the heat wave, sources at the Jordan Electricity Authority said today.

They said that this is the highest power consumption figure ever in Jordan's history, topping the figures of 1980 by 25 per cent. The sources said that the heat wave and the proliferation of air conditioning systems, as well as an increase in economic activity in the country, are responsible for the increase in electricity consumption. Despite this, they said, there was no disruption of electric power at any time.

CAEU chief due in Vienna for cooperation agreement

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The secretary general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri, will leave for Vienna tomorrow at the head of an official delegation on a two-day visit to Austria.

During the visit, Dr. Qaddouri will sign an agreement on technical cooperation between the CAEU and the United Nations Industrial Development Organ-

isation (UNIDO). The agreement covers the exchange of industrial information and expertise, as well as coordination in industrial planning between the two organisations.

Dr. Qaddouri will also deliver a lecture at UNIDO on the role of the CAEU in boosting Arab joint economic action.

Meanwhile, it was announced at CAEU headquarters here today that the CAEU will take part in a seminar on communications and transport in the Arab World which will open in Baghdad on Saturday. The CAEU delegation, which will leave for the Iraqi capital tomorrow, will present two working papers at the seminar dealing with the CAEU's role in helping to bring about Arab economic integration, and on the unification of road signs in the Arab World.

The seminar is organised by the Arab unity studies centre in cooperation with the engineers' and teachers' associations in Iraq, as well as a number of Arab and international institutions concerned with communications.



Fakhri Qaddouri

Veterinarians discuss curricula at Yarmouk University session

IRBID, Sept. 9 (Petra)—Participants in the first scientific seminar of Arab veterinarians today discussed two working papers dealing with developing curricula on veterinary education at Arab universities.

The participants, meeting at Yarmouk University here, also discussed limiting the number of students at veterinary colleges, and re-examining subjects taught at Arab universities in the light of new scientific developments.

The participants saw a documentary film on the development of Yarmouk University, and the university's director of cultural and public relations presented Yarmouk University's shield to the secretary general of the Federation of Arab Veterinarians.

Mufti reviews social development projects in Madaba, Dhiban area

MADABA, Sept. 9 (Petra)—Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti today inspected the work and activities of the social development department here.

Later, chairing a meeting at the district officer's headquarters in the city, Mrs. Mufti discussed with officials concerned with the development of local communities, cooperation between

ECWA-sponsored confab on foreign trade, statistics ends after hearing papers on problems and solutions

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—A four-day meeting of experts on statistics in foreign trade and industry ended here today.

Participants from a number of regional and international organisations taking part in the meeting discussed a number of working papers dealing with information about the exchange of trade and industrial production in the countries of western Asia, as well as means of overcoming problems facing statistics departments.

The participants' recommendations included, among other things, a call on U.N. bodies to Arabise basic documents connected with international trade statistics, and a request to the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) to organise a seminar for specialists in customs departments to discuss ways of overcoming customs problems, launching regional cooperation in foreign trade and finding ways to contribute to the development of national statistics departments.

Experts from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the U.N. bureau of statistics in New York and regional government departments participated in the meeting. The meeting was organised by ECWA in cooperation with the Department of Statistics.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL ENGLISH CLASSES

The next course commences on Saturday, September 19th. Registration is from 12th to 17th September between 9 and 12 noon and 4 to 6 p.m. Testing starts at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the above dates.

Amman printing plant becomes first to respond to boycott call

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Sept. 9 — A call to boycott American goods in Jordan from the executive committee of the people's conference on the boycott of American products has got its first active response from the public in the form of an Amman-based printing plant's decision to cease dealings with the American Life Insurance Company (Alico).

"This individual step came in response to the recent call for a boycott of American imports and services in Jordan," said Mr. Mahmoud Keilani, the owner of Al Sharq Printing Press and its associated offices.

The insurance policies cover three workers at the printing press, and have been held for six years.

"Though the sum of money involved is not great, I consider this step as very important," Mr. Keilani told the Jordan Times.

He also said that as far as he knows, his move has been the first individual step taken to put the boycott call into effect. But he expects other Jordanian citizens to follow suit.

He added that he has received more than 50 telephone calls in support of his initiative. The next step for Al Sharq is to seek Arab insurance companies to do business with, he said.

Mr. Keilani announced his intention to terminate business ties with Alico in a letter to the American insurance company. In his letter, Mr. Keilani said that "staunch American support for Israel as well as the American aggressive policies towards the Arab Nation" are the major bases for the boycott.

Jordan, Hungary sign health agreement

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—Jordan and Hungary today signed an agreement on cooperation in medical activities.

The agreement, signed by Under-Secretary of Health Rizq Al Rashdan and visiting Hungarian Deputy Health Minister Lejos Guszt, provides for the exchange of information and annual reports on medical statistics in both countries, as well as of expertise and information on medical administrative systems, research projects and training methods in medical matters.

Under the agreement, the two countries will also offer facilities to each other's medical researchers in radiotherapy, anaesthetics and X-ray diagnosis. Three technicians each in these disciplines from Jordan and Hungary will be visiting the other country's medical institutions for a four-week training course on a rotating basis.

The new agreement, which complements an earlier one signed in 1979, also provides for each country to advise the other about medical seminars and conferences which it intends to organise in the month of September of each year.

Earlier today, Mr. Guszt and his delegation visited the medical sciences faculty at the University of Jordan, and the university's hospital.

The visitors were briefed on the work and functions of the institutions' departments, and the medical services offered to the public. The delegation's members also met with the dean of the medical sciences faculty, who briefed them on the development of the faculty's departments.

The delegation was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Rashdan.

Hotel Training College chief meets Iraqi counterpart

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The chairman of the board of directors of the Hotel Training College, Mr. Thibni Ra'far, yesterday discussed with the Baghdad Hotel College Director Kazim Mubarak, who is currently visiting Jordan, means of consolidating cooperation between the two colleges in hotel training and education.

During their meeting, the two officials affirmed the significance of support for the union of Arab hotel institutes, so that it can perform its role on the Arab and international levels.

The Hotel Training College in Jordan is a member of three international tourist and hotel organisations. They are the League of International Hotel Institutes, headquartered in Switzerland; the Organisation of International Hotel and Tourist Studies, headquartered in Spain, and the International Federation of Hotels, based in France. The college is also a member of the Arab League of Hotel Institutes, whose headquarters is in Beirut.

Armico board meets on projects



AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The Arab Mining Company's (Armico's) board of directors held a meeting here today to review progress in work on projects which the company is implementing in Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Somalia, Bahrain and North Yemen.

Al Hashimi, also reviewed contacts made by Armico with a number of Arab officials in charge of the mining sectors in their countries, with the aim of identifying any new projects in which the company might acquire participation.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Iraqi Minister of Higher Education Abdul Razzak

Kuwait, Iraq and Libya.

UNRWA plans 1981 run for funding, with new disabled athletes

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (J.T.)—The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced today that a "Sponsored Run", similar to those of 1979 and 1980, would take place at the track around the football pitch of the Amman Training Centre on Sept. 30, starting at 3:30 p.m.

On the two previous occasions only UNRWA staff members in Jordan have participated, but as 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons, the runners will include a number of the disabled. They will run as far as they are able, obtaining financial sponsorship for each kilometre they complete.

The money so raised will be spent entirely on activities aimed at developing services for young refugees, in particular those disabled, and for summer camps for orphaned refugee children. The projects assisted will be those which cannot be covered by the agency's regular budget.

The Ministry of Social Development is eager to offer public services to help develop local communities, including water supply and electricity, in cooperation with other ministries and the private sector, the minister said.

She said that the Dhiban community development centre will serve as a nucleus for such projects in Madaba District. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has donated JD 50,000 for the construction of income-generating projects in the Dhiban area, with the purpose of helping to develop the local community there, she said.

The minister, accompanied by several aides, toured the various sections of the Dhiban centre and met with local officials.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL ARABIC CLASSES

Registration: Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th September from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

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Cabinet to meet in Salt

SALT, Sept. 9 (J.T.)—The cabinet will hold a meeting in Salt on Saturday to discuss the city's needs.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour said that he will present to the cabinet a working paper detailing all the city's needs. These include, among other things, a project to drill artesian wells and the replacement of the old water pipe network.

A discussion of the sewer project and the wastewater treatment plant, the construction of new roads and the building of factories in Salt are also proposed, Mr. Nsour said.

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POTTERY CLASSES at

HAYA ARTS CENTRE

The centre will start evening pottery classes on 16th September, for two months from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Sat./Wed. Fees: JD 40. Registration at the centre.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Cable to N. Korean leader

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, today sent a cable to North Korean President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of his country's national day.

Azraq oil testing to start soon

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (J.T.)—Preparations for the installation of a test rig for oil at Azraq have almost been completed, Ra'i newspaper reported today. It said that the Natural Resources Authority is expected to give the go-ahead for the test rig soon.

Malhas sees U.S. envoy, aide

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—Health Minister Zuhair Malhas received at his office yesterday U.S. Ambassador in Amman, Richard Viets, accompanied by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director Walter Bollinger. During the meeting, they discussed health cooperation between Jordan and the United States, and assistance which USAID gives to Jordan.

IDB board o.k.'s more loans

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The Industrial Development Bank today endorsed loans totalling JD 475,000 to a number of industries in Jordan. One of these loans, for JD 400,000, will finance the purchase of new buses to transport tourists in the country. The other loans will be used for the construction of detergent and fruit juice processing factories, a gravel and tile unit in Irbid and a bakery in Amman. With these loans the bank will have granted 51 loans, totalling JD 4,922,000, to various industries this year.

2nd-year science texts Arabised

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The Jordan Academy of Arabic has completed the translation of three scientific textbooks for second and third year students at the faculties of sciences of the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. The books deal with differential equations (translated by Dr. Ahmad Saïdan), optics (Dr. Omar Al'Ekli) and abstract algebra (Dr. Dhib Hussein). The translation of the books is part of a policy of Arabising scientific education at Arab universities. All the scientific books used by students in the 2nd year in scientific colleges have been translated for both universities; these cover physics, chemistry, biology, geology and mathematics.

15,733 passports in one month

AMMAN, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The Passport Department last month issued 15,733 passports, which included 1,256 for pilgrims going to Mecca this year, the department's director general, Mr. Mohammad Al Qouda, announced today. He said that the department's revenues in the same month for issuing these passports amounted to JD 247,088.

Ramtha ACC lends JD 88,000

AMTHA, Sept. 9 (Petra)—The Agricultural Credit Corporation's branch here extended loans totalling JD 88,000 to farmers in Ramtha District this year. The money was used by 120 farmers, mainly for drilling artesian wells and for the reclamation of agricultural land.

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RED & BLACK An Arab Nobel Prize

By Jawad Ahmad

ALFRED NOBEL died in 1896, twenty nine years after he had invented dynamite. When he saw how his invention was turned into a destructive weapon, he willed that his fortune be donated in prizes to leading scientists whose research and discoveries would lead to the improvement of human life.

The Nobel Prize is currently awarded in five major branches of science and literature namely, physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and economics. The sixth prize is the Nobel Peace Prize.

There are many examples to show that the decisions of the Nobel Prize committee can be coloured by political influ-

ences, particularly those in literature and peace. The other prizes tend to be more politics-free and objective.

It is proposed here that an Arab prize be established in order to award similar prizes in various fields to scientists or persons who contribute to the improvement of life's quality. The standards which are set for selection of winners should reveal Arab mentality and philosophy. The areas of competence do not have to be replicas of the ones awarded by the Nobel Prize committee. It is suggested that this prize be awarded in the fields of social sciences, Islamic studies, engineering, natural sciences and literature. This way, the

field covers a wider range of ideas and gives equal importance to different scientific pursuits.

To help finance this annual festivity, a fund can be created from Arab countries and its funds can be invested and the returns distributed as profits. An initial amount of \$60 million can be donated. Assuming a rate of return of 10 per cent, \$5 million can finance the prizes (\$500,000 each) and the administrative costs.

To give the occasion its due glamour, the annual festivity of awarding the prizes can be carried out in one of the Arab capitals, and the prizes handed by the leader of that country.

The obvious advantage of

such a reward is that it will construct a bridge between the Arab region and the leading scientists all over world. Moreover, it would project a better image of Arabs, in the world and would gain them much more respect. In addition, it would create an interest of scientists in the Arab World based on more objective and sympathetic consideration.

There are other advantages... such as opening the door for the accomplished scientists of the Third World to win such a prize -- a privilege they are practically denied by the Nobel Prize committee.

It may also be a good idea to find a suitable name for this prize. Such a name can be given

after one of the leading Arab scientists such as Al Razi, Al Kindi, Ibn Al Haitham, Ibn Khaldoun, etc... This suggestion can be amended to give each prize a name. For instance, Ibn Khaldoun Prize in social sciences; Ibn Al Haitham Prize in natural sciences; Ibn Hanbal prize in Islamic studies; and so on.

The idea is relatively simple and straightforward. All that we need is someone to adapt and offer it as an idea in the forthcoming Arab summit conference due to be held in Rabat, this coming November.

It may prove worth much more than what a first look might reveal.

Israel's Sabbath robot

By David Lemmon

TEL AVIV: Israel is involved in the great search for the Sabbath robot, a machine which will enable Jews to enjoy the advantages of modern technology without desecrating the Sabbath, the day designated by the Lord for devotion to rest.

The country's key industries are under orders to develop machines which will enable them to continue operations on the Sabbath without breaking the biblical injunction to "rest on the seventh day".

All this has been brought about by the creation of a coalition government in Israel which is dependent for its existence on three small religious parties who basically see the advancement of religion with society as their primary goal.

In return for their support, the key partner in the coalition is the fanatically religious Agudat Israel party, which takes its instructions from a group of elderly rabbis who are known as the "Council of Torah (hille) Sages". With an average age in excess of 80, these rabbis proudly declare that their first loyalty is not to the state but to the bible.

This is why they insist on the price of support for the government that of desecration of the Sabbath be halted. The fact that grinding the national airline, El Al, on Saturday cost Israel \$50 million a year (lost valuable tourist earnings from cruise ships visiting Haifa port on the weekend, and the many factories cannot cease operations even one day week without causing major economic losses) is irrelevant for these latter-day Hebrew "sages".

For these medieval figures the injunctions of the Lord are far more important than any temporal gain. For them even Jewish should abstain from work on the Sabbath and between sundown on Friday and sundown on Saturday he should remain within walking distance of his home.

But the proposed changes in the nature of Israel's society are not restricted just to tightening of the Sabbath observance laws. They also include banning the sale of pork, and prohibiting the display of lewd advertising.

With more than 80 per cent of the Israelis being totally secular, and a high percentage of this number being positive anti-religious, these new strictures are bound to cause considerable social strain. This is especially so as the new regulations may affect such crucial issues as the playing of national league football matches on Saturday afternoon.

For many years there has been fear in Israel that the ingathering of the exiles which brought people from more than 70 countries and from various cultural backgrounds might result in a "Kulturkampf", a clash between the religious and secular sections of society.

Indeed there are already signs of this in the constant battles between religious fanatics in Jerusalem and other Israel driving on certain roads on Saturday, and the attacks of archaeologists engaged in excavating the ancient "City of David" who the religious are disturbing the dead.

The observance of the coalition agreement is also often angry comments by young Israelis about the exemptions from military service which have been granted to religious Jews. Women are also outraged by the fact that married women will no longer be allowed to serve in the regular army.

If Mr. Begin's political allies had their way it would be impossible for a sexy young Israeli girl to appear in a Tel Aviv disco in her hot pants on Friday evening eating a hot sandwich. Instead she should stay at home in a dress which covers her arms and legs demurely awaiting the call of the matchmaker.

During the last coalition government's four years in office it passed legislation restricting the performance of autopsies and removed the "social need" clause from the law permitting abortion.

Many Israelis fear that the new government will impose further restrictions on civil liberties, regardless of the social cost, as the price of staying in office.

Oil reality

ANEYE-OPENING report has just been released by the United States Defence Intelligence Agency. It says that the Soviet Union's energy outlook is "highly favourable", and calls the energy sector one of the few bright spots in an otherwise erratic Soviet economy. The Soviet Union will not only remain self-sufficient in energy supplies (oil, coal and gas) through the 1990s, but it will also be able to increase exports to customers in Eastern and Western Europe and Japan.

The report says that Soviet oil production will continue rising, to reach 12.2 million barrels per day this year and to higher output levels after 1990, while Soviet natural gas production, growing at 7-9 per cent a year, will soon exceed the rest of the world's production. Furthermore, the report says that the Soviet Union produces nearly 95 per cent of its basic oil production equipment, making it virtually immune to Western embargoes of capital equipment.

The Defence Intelligence Agency report contrasts sharply with a CIA study done last year, which doubted the Soviet Union's ability to produce more than 12 million barrels of oil per day. The new American study should immediately call into serious question the rationale of those American hawks who have designed American Middle East policy on the basis of countering alleged Soviet designs on the oil fields of the Arabian Peninsula. The reality is otherwise. The Americans are the vulnerable party that relies on Arabian Peninsula sources for about one-quarter of its oil imports, and it is the United States that needs to beat its militaristic chest to "protect" its sources of oil. Who's fooling whom?

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Positive Scandinavian attitude

AL RA'I: The foreign ministers of the Scandinavian countries have issued a joint communique recently condemning Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab lands with the purpose of changing the character of Arab territory in general and Jerusalem in particular. This communique issued in Stockholm declared that Israel's policies constitute an obstacle in the face of achieving a Middle East peace.

The communique which reflects a positive attitude on the part of the Scandinavian countries is an indication that Israel has failed to convince the European nations of its settlement policy or win them over its side. On the contrary, this Zionist policy seems to have aroused these countries' indignation and anger, particularly over the status of Jerusalem; and it seems that the whole of Europe has begun to realise the dangers inherent in Israel's policy and its aggressive nature.

Undoubtedly this Scandinavian stand corroborates those of the EEC countries, Austria, the Soviet Union, the Non-aligned countries and the other peace-loving nations which have already condemned Israel's policies in the occupied Arab territories.

This positive stand, coming on the eve of the Reagan-Begin talks ought to be understood by Washington. The U.S. should note that the communique has totally ignored the US-sponsored Camp David agreements, and this is not a mere coincidence, but a clear demonstration that Scandinavian countries are convinced that those agreements fall far short of resolving the Palestine problem which is the core of the Middle East conflict.

We welcome and appreciate the positive stand of the Scandinavian nations and at the same time urge the Arab states to intensify their efforts on the international level with the purpose of gaining further support for their cause.

Aim of the new alliance

AL DUSTOUR: The American - Israeli alliance is a well-established fact. It is known to have existed well before President Truman's recognition of Israel in 1948. It dates back to the days when Washington was supplying the Zionist terrorist gangs with arms and practically helping them in their war against the Arab population of Palestine following the germination of British mandate there.

The revival of the talks on forming a U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance on the occasion of Begin's visit to Washington rouses many questions about its aim as well as its consequences and impact on the Middle East and international relations.

It is obvious that Israel's quest to consolidate its alliance with the U.S. by stockpiling American arms in its arsenals and forcing President Reagan to fix the official seal on America's alliance with Israel is aimed at eventually forcing the U.S. to comply with Zionist expansionist designs in our region. If President Reagan who is intent on confronting what he calls Soviet intervention in the Middle East falls into Israel's carefully planned trap, he will no doubt become prisoner of the Zionist ambitions and will be committed to implement Israel's aims.

No doubt stockpiling American arms in Israel secures for Tel Aviv a continued military as well as political superiority in the Middle East without burdening the Israeli budget with required funds for purchasing more weapons, and this will subsequently have a beneficial effect on Israel's economy, now suffering from inflation and other ills. Moreover, Israel will guarantee the sale of its own-manufactured weapons to other countries, including the United States itself. But above all, the new alliance will completely rule out any possibility that Washington might ever adopt a balanced attitude with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arab states, faced with the new situation will find no alternative but to conclude an alliance with other nations to counter the American-Israeli danger. Washington's step will thus have helped to force the region into becoming an arena for super-power rivalry and struggle.

LETTERS

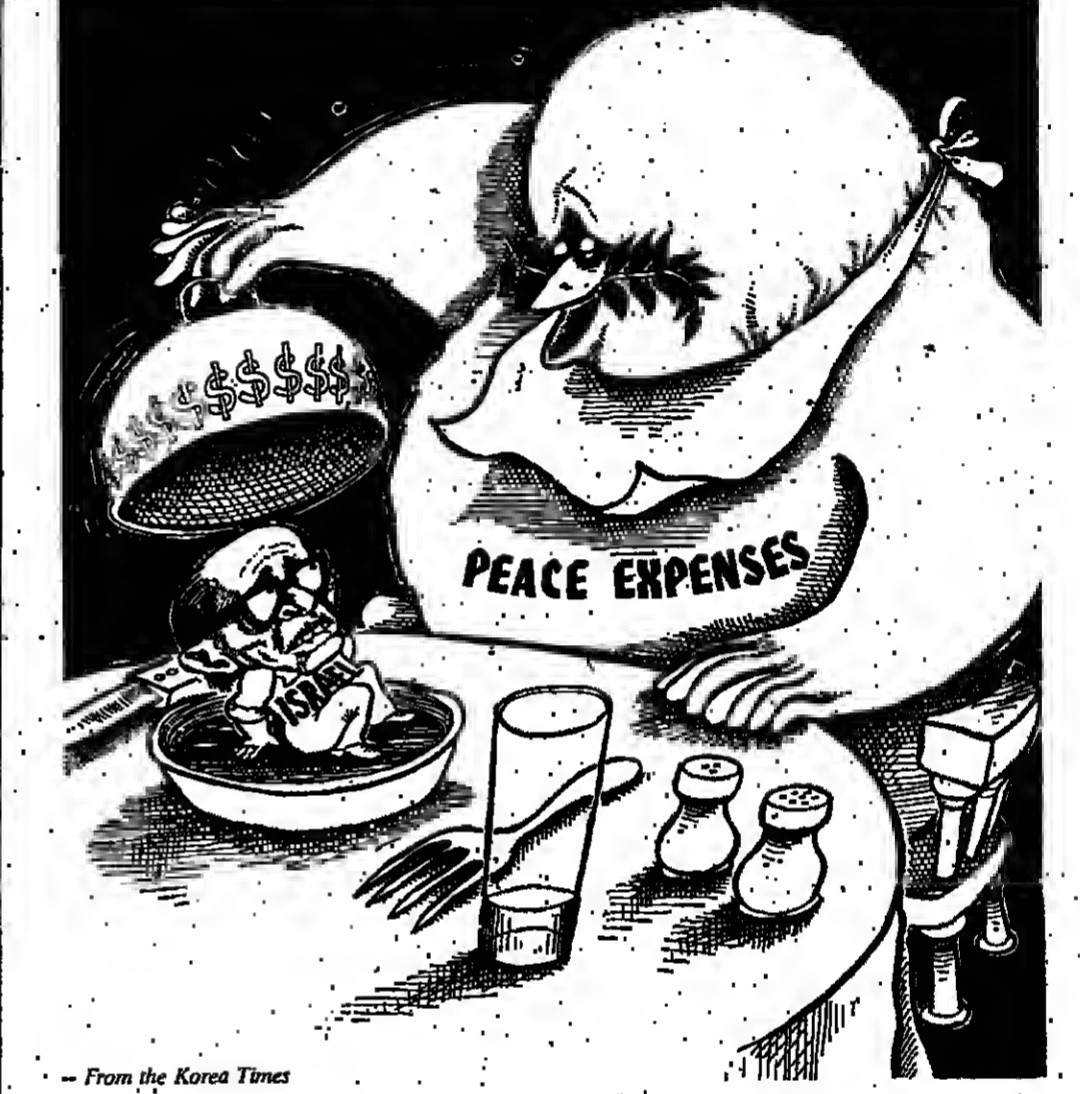
A heartening experience

To the Editor:

I have followed with great interest the exchange of letters in your newspaper about the national air carrier Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. I do not want to add to the specific complaints and explanations that have been made, because I feel it is impossible for this kind of discussion to lead to any final conclusion. Alia flies thousands of flights every year carrying over one million passengers. Each passenger can testify to the airline's high standards or its low standards, according to their personal experience. Charges and counter-charges about specific incidents are fun to read, but they are not the most important point. In my opinion, as an experienced international air traveller I would only say that Alia, like most fast-growing airlines in the Third World offers some excellent services in keeping with its impressive growth record, and also slips into some inevitable poor service because of its constant struggle to keep its staff up with its brisk expansion.

The more important point that I wish to mention is the heartening experience of following this kind of exchange of opinion in your newspaper. There are few Third World countries where one could openly criticise the national flag carrier in print, let alone engage the airline in a responsible and educational exchange of opinion. If Jordan and other developing countries are to evolve in a healthy manner, I think that a spirit of open, candid and constructive discussion of public institutions is a vital requirement. Newspapers are an important instrument to promote such discussion, and the exchange of views on the complaints against Alia by Mr. Nabil Sawalha suggests that Jordan may have the potential to lead the way for other developing countries in this respect. I hope we will see more of the same in the future.

Jeffrey Wilkinson
Amman



Mitterrand's foreign policy starts taking shape

Brash and bold elsewhere, but not on Mideast

By Bernard Edinger

PARIS — Only two weeks after France's Socialist administration took power last May, new External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said French Middle East policy would become increasingly clearer in the coming months.

Over 100 days after the Socialists took over, their Middle East policies still remain blurred in the eyes of many people in France and abroad.

But French views and intentions on other international issues are rapidly becoming clear. Many commentators believe President Francois Mitterrand has ambitions to be as active an international figure as was Gen. de Gaulle when he ruled from 1958 to 1969.

Mr. Mitterrand has already made it clear he would be tough towards Moscow in direct East-West relations.

Soviet leaders should no longer expect France to act independently of the Atlantic alliance in major confrontations as did previous President Valery Giscard d'Estaing at the start of the Afghan crisis in 1980, most commentators agree.

The same commentators add that any glee in Washington over such developments is likely to be very much dampened by Mr. Mitterrand's views on North-South relations which are very much at odds with those held by the new Republican administration.

In practically any major field of international activity — save the Middle East —, bold and sometimes even brash new French initiatives can be expected, informed sources say.

The same sources say, however, that Mr. Mitterrand's pronouncements concerning the Middle East are likely to be as careful as those of a blindfolded man gingerly trying to pick his way across a minefield.

The reason for this, according to many, is that both domestically

and internationally, whatever Mr. Mitterrand does concerning the Middle East can immediately and seriously affect both France and the president's own political fortunes.

A recent joint statement with Mexico describing leftist, anti-government guerrillas in El Salvador as a genuine representative political force was greeted with joy by a long-frustrated French left. But it is hardly likely to affect France's financial situation.

France's already shaky economy hardly looks in any shape to risk losing the Arab money which poured in since the start of the Lebanese civil war in 1975 upset Beirut banking. This money is now reported to make up perhaps 10 per cent of all deposits in French banks.

France is used as a clearing house by wealthy Gulf states for many of their overseas banking operations and Arab investments in French firms and projects is heavy.

France also sells about 50 billion francs (about \$9 billion) a year of goods to the Arab World, a figure which only makes up for half the imports from that area, principally oil.

Mr. Mitterrand has, however, promised that he would honour all his campaign pledges including that of carrying out a more even-handed Middle East policy after years of French tilting towards the Arab World.

A three-day fact-finding trip by Mr. Cheysson to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria late last month became embroiled in a diplomatic *pas de deux* between Mr. Cheysson and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Both sides seemed to agree that if Mr. Cheysson called on Mr. Arafat at his headquarters this would mean de facto French recognition of the PLO as sole representative of all Palestinians.

They finally met on neutral ground, at the home of the Lebanese prime minister, but the question of Socialist France's ties with the PLO is still very much open to question.

Well-informed sources say Mr. Mitterrand in no way shares the headline ideas of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and that the Frenchman has made clear more than once that he favours an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Mitterrand is expected to rely on 'relay' countries, like Algeria, India and Mexico for his forays into Third World politics. He is also expected to vociferously oppose apartheid in South Africa but to be somewhat more conservative about change in those African countries where France wields major influence today.

Mr. Mitterrand's views closely resemble those of his friends in the left wing of Israel's Labour Party which has always found a sympathetic ear with other top French Socialists such as Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Presidency Secretary-General Pierre Berezgony and Mr. Mitterrand's own special adviser Jacques Attali.

Confusion over the new government's approach to the Middle East was highlighted after the assassination of its ambassador to Lebanon, Louis Delamare, on Friday.

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the killing, French political commentators were quick to point in almost every possible direction:

Some commentators said the killers could have been Iranian extremists angered by France's decision to grant political asylum to former Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr and Mujahedin guerrilla leader Massoud Rajavi in July.

Others said a Palestinian splinter group could have carried out the killing in reaction to the meeting between Mr. Cheysson and Mr. Arafat at which Mr. Cheysson emphasised Israel's right to exist.

One television commentator suggested Israeli agents or their Christian Lebanese allies had assassinated the ambassador because of the Cheysson-Arafat meeting.

Although the killing is unlikely to alter French policy in the Middle East, it highlighted France's longstanding involvement in the region.

It also showed the dangers for French representatives in the volatile area as the new administration tries to formulate a coherent policy which will not alienate any of the warring factions, all of which are most sensitive to any change in policy.

The real difference between Mr. Mitterrand's Middle East policies and those of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing are expected to centre on France's approach to Europe's role in finding a peace solution.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was a prime mover behind the European Economic Community's attempts to foster a peace initiative which would ultimately have included guarantees, probably foreign troops, to be stationed on the borders between Israel and the

Arab states.

Mr. Mitterrand is thought to be opposed, like the Israelis themselves, to such guarantees which he has indicated would be dubious in time of real crisis, the sources said.

But if the French president is being coy on what he plans to do about the Middle East, he has shown no such restraints when dealing with other foreign topics as illustrated by his joint statement with Mexico about El Salvador.

Mr. Mitterrand has indicated that present U.S. policies and lack of social change in Latin America could only result, in his eyes, in that continent becoming an ever-bloody theatre of confrontation.

Mr. Mitterrand feels that guerrilla groups, such as those in El Salvador, can be prevented from running into Soviet arms if the West were to intervene in favour of social change in their countries.

For his forays into Third World politics, Mr. Mitterrand is expected to rely on 'relay' countries and Algeria, India and Mexico are those most often mentioned as possible allies.

France is expected to "vociferously oppose apartheid in South Africa but to be somewhat more conservative about change in those African countries where it wields major influence today.

French troops did not intervene to prevent the unpopular David Dacko, president of the Central African Republic, from being overthrown last week by his pro-Western army.

But the Senegalese forces which reinstated Gambia's President Dawda Jawara when he was overthrown in July by Marxists in his army were powerfully supported by France, which arms and equips a dozen armies in black Africa.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Jordan's economy: 1980 and beyond (Part III)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the third of a four-part series embodying excerpts of a Royal Scientific Society (RSS) report on Jordan's economy. In the first and second parts, published Tuesday and yesterday, the authors, Dr. Bassam A. Ket and Dr. Bassam J. Asfour, of the RSS economics department, presented a view of the various sectors of Jordan's economy. The analytic survey of the important sectors in the economy focused on the key indicators in these sectors, to reflect the changes in the economy during the past year. Today, the authors present an assessment of the whole economy, outlining concerns and suggesting remedies. Part IV, to appear on Saturday, Dr. Ket and Dr. Asfour present a brief evaluation of the country's first five-year plan (1976-1980) and a summary of the objectives of the second (1981-1985).

trialists for this as facilities in Jerash, for example, cannot match those offered in Amman now, even in ten or fifteen years time; thirdly, the lack of efficient and professional management at factory level and also administrative staff — in this area, business schools can help not to produce new graduates but to help present professional managers overcome pertinent problems at all levels; fourthly, the low level of productivity in many industries. We would encourage (a) directing new ventures towards the areas where Jordan could possess a comparative advantage either within our region or in the light of trade agreements with other countries, for example the EEC; (b) the setting up of new industrial ventures should be made in accordance with a reliable feasibility study to avoid wasteful spending; (c) a reduction and simplification in routine with regard to public institutions' relations with industry.

potential leavers to abandon the civil service would be eliminated. A third aspect to the civil service reform could take the form of a rejuvenated Public Auditor's Bureau. This Bureau should fully reassume its role as a watch-dog on public spending.

applying greater control on companies and also, with a rejuvenated Public Auditor's Bureau, spending can be closely monitored and related to work executed. Further, it has been a practice, on some occasions, to conduct negotiations with contractors after submitting their tender details with a view to lower bids. Not only has this been a rather unfair practice, but it also opens the way towards possible wrong judgement in the awarding of tenders.

of growth of imports. All these measures are necessary if a reduction in the country's chronic trade deficit is desired.

(8) Energy sources and water supplies will be major problems ahead in the 1980s. Jordan's oil bill was well over JD 100 million in 1980 compared to JD 36 million in 1977. During 1980, transport burnt about half of Jordan's total refined oil, industry and electricity generation took 15 per cent each. There must be an intensive search for oil in Jordan, coupled with extensive efforts to develop oil shale and solar energy. The country's energy authority can look over such matters and the public should be made aware of this problem by intensive campaigns in the

media and to impose conservation measures. A problem also exists for water supplies which are likely to run short in view of rising demand by households and agriculture. The above list may look formidable. But an economy that can grow by a real 10 per cent in 1980 should be able to overcome these problems. The government, as a guardian to the nation, should take the lead. The best start could be made with the reform of the civil service followed by a coherent and sensible policy for food and agriculture, and energy. Jordan has always prided itself in development against all odds, there should be no reason why reformed development cannot take place in the 1980's.

Assessment and points for consideration

AMONG THE MOST outstanding feature of the economy during 1980 was the balance of payments surplus of JD 110 million. That is not the story. The inflation rate rose three percentage points to 10 per cent. Government spending by 3 per cent only, a very sign to avoid inflationary pressure. G.D.P. grew by a real close to 10 per cent, with a real expansion in agricultural added and a healthy in all of the other sectors, against normal trends. All of unaided hard work for which the public, as well as private sectors, deserve commendations. However, much hard work needs to be done: our aim to draw attention in areas where some repair work ought to be carried out if Jordan desires to be a leader in the field. These include:

execution; fourthly, the small holdings of land especially in rain-fed areas are providing too costly to administer and with the absence of effective cooperatives not enough help is being offered; lastly, the serious deficiency in effective agricultural extension. The overall aim in such a policy must be to provide food security to the nation subject to a certain desired level of efficiency. In 1980, Jordan produced about 133,000 tons of wheat when it consumed about 400,000 tons. Early forecasts of wheat production for 1981 reveal a harvest of no more than 57,000 tons. The inefficiency of agricultural services, coupled with lack of facilities, produced a glut of tomatoes in the summer of 1981 which is a waste of effort and resources.

(2) Although the industrial sector has been growing rapidly in recent years, and whilst future growth will continue at a similar pace when the large ventures of the 1976-80 plan finally start production, we still suffer from firstly, the multiplicity of small ventures within a narrow line of industrial activity which breaks away with the economies of scale; any serious industrialist desires, secondly, the concentration of factories in the Amman region — this aggravates the problem of migration to the cities for work — and we cannot really blame indus-

(3) It is time for the government to seize the opportunity and embark on a policy of civil service reform. It is true that we may have shortages of civil servants in some areas, and it is equally true that there is ample room to reduce inefficiency and bureaucracy. We encourage a detailed study and an appraisal of government machinery. A second aspect of this needed reform is to bring a halt to the hemorrhage of experienced staff out of the civil service to the private sector in Jordan and to neighbouring countries for higher levels of remuneration. We would suggest an immediate freeze on new recruitments and a small reduction in the size of the civil service following the appraisal called for above. The financial gain from such activity should then be used to substantially raise the salaries of the remaining staff, especially those with experience, and therefore the incentive, for

(4) The government should, at the first chance, attempt to cover its current spending and also a significant part of its development spending from domestic sources. There is the opportunity to impose, new taxes on all forms of luxury spending either in the form of raising custom rates or in the form of a sales tax. The income tax law should also be reformed, and collection with administration be improved. There should also be a way to impose a small levy on Jordanian citizens abroad. The government should not continue to rely on foreign sources to cover part of its current spending as has been the case. In addition to the possible saving that could be achieved in the drive for less bureaucracy, the government should gradually eliminate a large part of the subsidies on fuel and many food items.

(5) The construction boom the country witnessed during the past five or six years, has opened the road, perhaps in a haphazard way, to the setting up of vast numbers of contracting companies. Only a fraction of these have had the ability to execute work allotted to them successfully, and of the large companies only a very few proved so. Their failure has been ascribed to foreign competition, the inadequacy of legislation in contracting, and the sheer incompetence of company managements, coupled with the lack of adequate and responsible financial control. The need therefore manifests itself in a reform of the contracting market with a view to

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ECONOMY

France nationalises 36 banks

PARIS, Sept. 9 (R) — France's Socialist government today decided to nationalise 36 French-owned banks effectively putting 95 per cent of all deposits under state control.

The government, at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Francois Mitterrand, also approved plans to take over 51 per cent of the Matra armaments and telecommunications company and of the Dassault aviation concern. The decisions were reported by presidential spokesman Pierre Berégovoy soon after all trading in shares of companies and groups on the government's take-over list was suspended on the Paris stock exchange at the request of the

economy ministry. Financial sources said the suspension was requested to prevent speculation in these shares whose value has soared in recent weeks amid reports that the government planned generous compensation terms.

Mr. Berégovoy's announcement gave the first clear details of the government's intentions towards the private banks since Mr. Mitterrand was elected on May 10 and his Socialist Party then won control of the national assembly.

Although the socialist leader had made clear his plans to nationalise major banks, as well as 11 large industrial groups, the exact number to be taken over had

not previously been revealed.

Exact terms of the nationalisation measures will be detailed in a bill to be put before a cabinet meeting on September 23 and then introduced in the national assembly in October.

But Mr. Berégovoy said today shareholders would receive bonds as "fair compensation" for their holdings although their exact value and composition had not yet been decided.

Earlier in the day the government had raised a six-year state bond issue launched by the Mitterrand administration shortly after taking office from eight billion francs (\$1.3 billion) to 15 billion francs (\$2.5 billion).

The issue was aimed at helping cover a large budget deficit but its high 16.75 interest rate had helped spark speculation that shareholders of companies to be nationalised might expect similar terms.

Mr. Berégovoy said foreign-owned and cooperative banks as well as small financial institutions with deposits of less than one billion francs (\$170 million) would be excluded from the planned nationalisation.

The two major institutions to be taken under state control will be Compagnie Financière de Paris et des Pays Bas, or Paribas, and the Compagnie Financière de Suez. Other large French

banks—including the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), the Societe Generale and the Credit Lyonnais—were nationalised under the first administration of General Charles de Gaulle after World War Two.

According to Mr. Berégovoy, industrial shareholdings of the new banks to come under the state umbrella will be resolved by the government after the takeover unless they belong to other companies due for nationalisation.

The spokesman said discussions with Matra, whose armaments section had earlier been the lone target of the socialist takeover plan, had shown the company had to be kept as one unit.

Japan to cut oil imports

TOKYO, Sept. 9 (R) — Japanese oil importers next year will aim to cut crude oil imports, except from Saudi Arabia, the International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) said today.

The move followed a serious decline in business from high crude oil prices and low demand for oil products, it added.

MITI said refineries and trading houses last month stopped oil imports from Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, Iran, and Kuwait pending negotiations for cuts in prices and the amount supplied.

Imports of crude from Kuwait had since resumed after a five per cent reduction in contracted sales while talks with the other four countries were continuing, it

added. In most cases negotiations concerned quantity and prices to be concluded in new contracts for shipment next year, it said.

MITI described Saudi Arabia as a stable supplier whose prices were 10 per cent lower than others. Saudi Arabia supplied 31.6 per cent of the 1.61 billion barrels of crude oil imported by Japan last year.

MITI said oil importers were now refusing to accept prices above \$36 a barrel and insisting on

extension of the usance, per (short-term credit period) a other measures leading to effective price cuts.

This was necessary to encourage recovery in some oil producing countries, such as Saudi Arabia, MITI said.

MITI said some Japanese refineries faced serious difficulties due to high oil prices and a slump in the domestic market, especially in the June-August period when they were also hit by a sharp depreciation of the yen.

Foreign investors retreat from the Paris bourse

The Paris bourse's CAC General index is still more than one sixth short of its pre-election peaks; despite some recovery. Foreign investors, particularly Europeans, will not return until they are reassured about the course of the French economy.

Before the recent elections, brokers in Paris were gearing up for an influx of foreign funds. They believed Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing would be re-elected, as did most of their clients.

When he lost the election the broking community was faced with a stampede in the opposite direction. Many foreigners sold out in the first few panic days which followed the election.

There is no doubt that this desertion has hit the Paris market hard. Share prices have recovered noticeably since their June lows for this year, but that still leaves the main CAC General index more than a sixth short of its pre-election peaks.

Although a great deal of the work that went into developing

the bourse by the previous Government was directed at a domestic audience, it was also aimed at attracting foreign investors. Mr. René Monory, the former Economics Minister, used to talk of turning Paris into one of the world's leading stock markets, based on a vigorous, free standing, internationally-competitive industrial sector.

The bourse was still a long way from this ideal when the Socialist landslide swept across France. Yet some of the earlier groundwork remains intact.

At the height of the bourse's popularity last year, between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the funds invested in French shares probably came from overseas. This figure is now widely agreed to

have dropped to about 5 per cent. But if the former Government had been returned, some experts are convinced that the influx of funds would have extended the foreign shareholding to about 30 per cent of the bourse's capital value.

Some of this finance would have been transient. Paris, like other stock markets, attracts a fair amount of floating capital. But what the authorities had been hoping for was an inflow of longer-term funds, invested with a view to being kept in French stocks whatever the particular conditions of the market. This would have been an important element in building up the liquidity which is seen as an essential step in the development of a bigger market.

There is some evidence that in the last few years, particularly since Mr. Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister, introduced his more rigorous style of economic management, some of the money flowing into Paris has been committed on a longer term basis. This was particularly true of U.S. and Arab investors, although less so of the Europeans — essentially the British, Germans and Swiss.

The difference in attitude derives from the U.S. view of Paris as one of a number of European

stock markets on a list which is used to spread risks and diversify investments. A certain amount of capital is set aside for Europe by some of the big fund managers, and Paris gets its share.

Similarly, the Arabs have tended to hold on to their shares in

view of the Paris bourse. For them, it is a small market where quick profits can sometimes be made, but where risks are sizeable and price swings are exaggerated because of the lack of size and liquidity. Three main questions will have to be answered positively before they return in any number.

By Terry Dodsworth

PARIS: By electing a Socialist President when the professional forecasting world had dismissed him as an also-ran, the French voters have delivered another of the body blows that have periodically shaken the international standing of the Paris bourse.

Paris because these investments are just one element in an overall portfolio which may include property and bonds. During the last three or four years, a number of Arabs have committed themselves to France as a safe and stable haven for oil revenue.

Most European investors, however, are still taking a short-term

view of the Paris bourse. For them, it is a small market where quick profits can sometimes be made, but where risks are sizeable and price swings are exaggerated because of the lack of size and liquidity. Three main questions will have to be answered positively before they return in any number.

Finally, foreign confidence needs to be restored in the performance of the French economy. During Mr. Barre's period in office there was a gathering feeling among international investors that France was at last beginning to harness fully the inherent strengths — its vast land resources, its high standards of education and training and its strong administration — in the interests of developing industry.

Many investors feel that the Socialists could turn the clock back, undermining the competitiveness of French companies while fuelling France's already high inflation by give-away budgets.

"For the past few years, France has been the priority country on my investment list in Europe," said a U.S. fund manager recently. "I have not lost interest. But for the time being it has been pushed to the bottom of my list." That is probably a fair summing up of the general feeling.

The second question relates to Financial Times news feature

LONDON EXCHANGERATES

LONDON, Sept. 9 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	1.7810/30	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2071/74	Canadian dollar	
	2.4300/15	West German marks	
	2.6900/20	Dutch guilders	
	2.0970/1000	Swiss francs	
	39.79/82	Belgian francs	
	5.8225/55	French francs	
	1216.00/1217.00	Italian lire	
	233.65/85	Japanese yen	
	5.2275/2375	Swedish crowns	
	6.0575/0675	Norwegian crowns	
	7.5850/5950	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	436.00/437.00	U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Sept. 9 (R) — The market closed easier after a quiet session with concern over U.S. interest rates affecting sentiment, dealers said. At 1500 the FTI index was down 4.5 at 546.8. Government bonds closed little changed against overnight levels after a narrowly irregular trend. Dealers said the central government borrowing requirement figures had little impact on sentiment but some trading statements depressed the equity sector.

Gold shares ended higher with the bullion price but Canadian shares eased. BICC fell to 250 from 268 after the £48.7 million rights issue proposal which accompanied its half year results. Bowater fell 10p following its half time report before recovering to end 4p off a 251.

Other companies to announce interim figures were also easier. House of Fraser eased 9p to 174, Thomas Tilling 5p to 165 and O 3 1/2 to 111p. ICI, B.P. Shell and Glaxo finished unchanged on the day but GEC and Plessey declined 15p and 13p respectively while Thom EMI lost 7p.

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The Jordan Times can accept classified advertisements that are sent in by mail and accompanied by full payment in cash. Readers and advertisers who cannot conveniently

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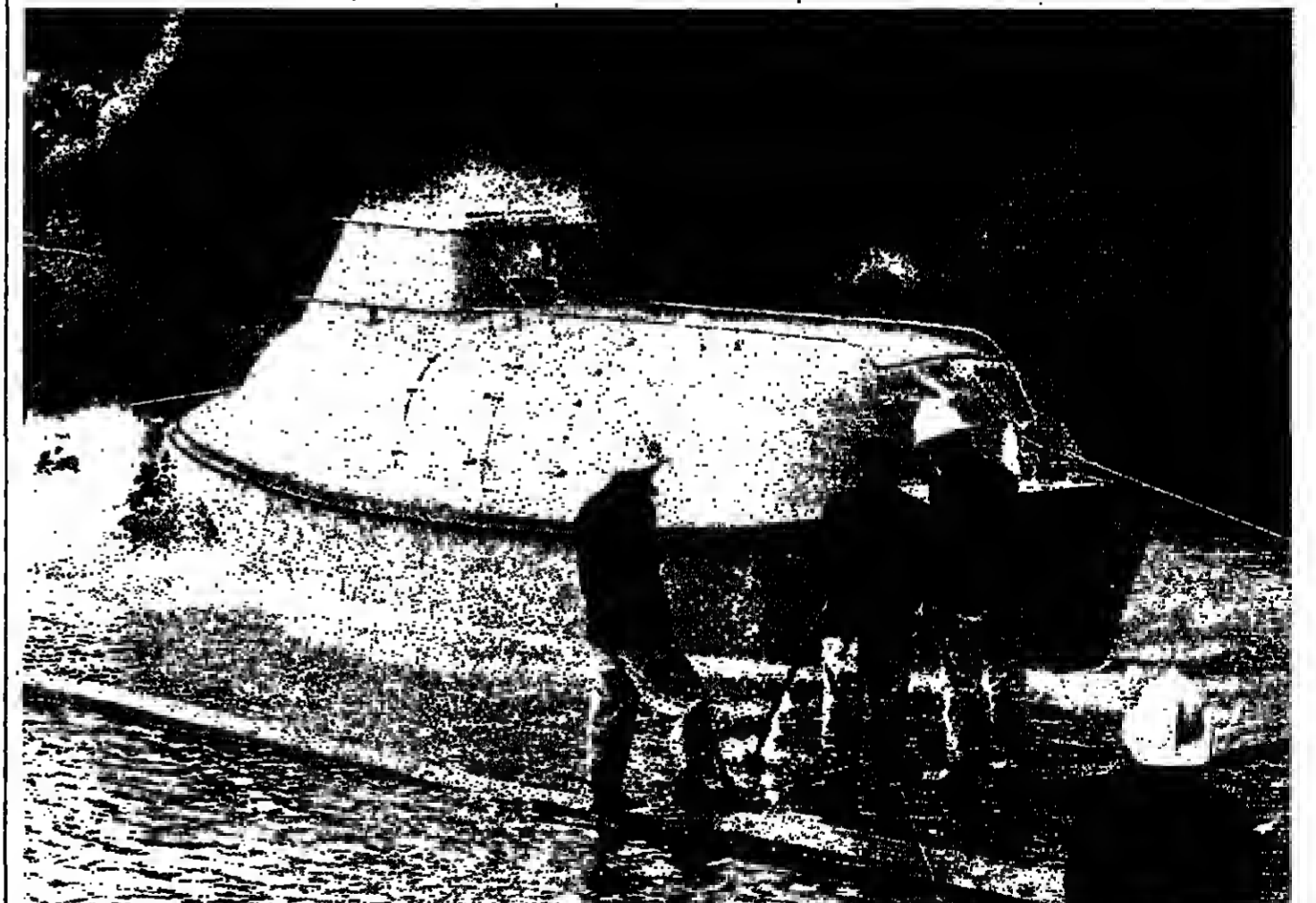
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(write one word only per box — please print)

Please publish the above advertisement in the Jordan Times on _____ day (s). Enclosed is payment of _____

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Fireproof lifeboat from Britain



A prototype fireproof lifeboat passes its final test in Britain — a five-minute ordeal by fire, fuelled by 4000 litres of kerosene. The hull of the glass fibre 'Lambie 001' lifeboat was scorched but no major damage was inflicted by the flames.

The boat has a water spray system to reduce surface temperature. This draws water from 1 m below the water line and sprays it over the length of the canopy and hull. During the test the average recorded temperature inside the vessel was 27° C, despite outside recordings of over 1 000° C. Inside atmospheric pressure was retained at 0.4 millibars — slightly above outside pressure and sufficient to exclude any toxic gases from the fire.

The Lambie range of fireproof lifeboats is designed for use on board oil tankers and chemical carriers as well as on oil and gas

rigs. There are three sizes — a 6.5 m long boat for 25 passengers, an 8 m craft for 50 people and one 8.5 m long for 60. The boats are self-righting and have airtight buoyancy compartments. Each has an integral conning tower with four heat-resistant windows for maximum all-round vision. An enlarged escape hatch in the forward end enables the entry or release of injured passengers. Four other boarding doorways enable the full complement of passengers to board the craft in less than 30 seconds.

The lifeboats are equipped with three-cylinder water-cooled diesel engines with sufficient fuel to make six knots for 24 hours when fully laden. Each boat is fitted with individual passenger seat belts and standard equipment includes an emergency tiller, heaving lines, boarding ladders and storm anchors.

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Opening batsman Boycott suspended for the season

BRBOROUGH, England, 9 (A.P.) — Geoff Boycott, m's controversial opening batsman, was suspended today for the rest of the cricket season by his county team.

Boycott had hoped to avoid a confrontation with Illingworth until after the end of the season. I am not getting a fair deal from the team manager and I am determined to have a showdown with him soon, but I prefer to leave it until after our last two matches because I don't want to do anything that might upset Yorkshire's chances of gaining points in those matches," he was quoted as saying this morning.

Neo-Nazi group offers to protect Springboks

CHICAGO, Sept. 9 (A.P.) — A loyal band of neo-Nazis will assign hundreds of its members to serve as guards at a rugby match featuring a South African team on Sept. 19, a group spokesman said yesterday.

Michael Allen, leader of the National Socialist Party of America, said party members dressed in street clothes and armed "with what's legal" will be scattered through the crowds during the Springboks match against players from various midwestern rugby clubs.

10 countries to meet in Thai soccer tourney

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept. 9 (A.P.) — The countries including host Thailand will participate in the 14th King's soccer tournament to be held in Bangkok Nov. 9 - 24, Thailand Football Association vice-president Pisit Ngamwong said today.

Footballers call off strike

MADRID, Sept. 9 (R) — Spain's top footballers today called off a strike which forced the postponement of the start of the first and second division programme last weekend.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1981
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can make rapid gains where personal duties are concerned early in the day. Later some changes could have adverse reactions. Take time to prepare for the future.
ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle public and career duties in the morning so that later you can engage in pleasant social activities. Be poised.
TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) New ideas can be of great benefit to you at this time. You can solve a problem that has caused much trouble in the past.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are able to take care of personal duties early in the day. Admiration shown to good friends brings excellent results.
MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can now meet expectations of a stern associate. Strive for increased harmony with co-workers. Help one in distress.
LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Try to improve on the quality of your work. Be more willing to make changes that will increase productivity. Think constructively.
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your financial position and find a way to have greater abundance in the days ahead. Exercise great care in motion.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle family affairs early in the day and sidestep any arguments. Promises you have made can be handled tonight.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Morning is best time to make and keep important appointments. Situations could arise that you had not counted on. Be alert.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take care of money matters early in the day. Come to a fine meeting of minds with associates. Show that you have wisdom.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Decide exactly what you really want to accomplish and then make definite plans to gain your aims. Be more cheerful.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find a way to solve an annoying problem. Steer clear of a higher-up who is not in a good mood right now. Be wise.
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure you don't jump into new interests at the expense of successful old ones. A secondary matter can be easily handled now.
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will want to start making own way early in life. Send to the right schools that can prepare your progeny for success in the business world. Be sure to give ethical training early in a life. Sports are a must here.
"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 10, 1981
GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can express goodwill and are able to get together and work out personal problems with others. Make a point to maintain self-control and understanding of others.
ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may feel sluggish early in the day but later can make up for lost time and accomplish a great deal. Be sensible.
TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) New projects appeal to you but they need more study before you jump into them. New contacts yield fine benefits now.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises made and you reap fine benefits from them. Show more affection for loved one.
MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may not agree with the ideas of an associate, but think them over carefully for a better appraisal.
LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Improving your surroundings now can add to your comfort and pleasure. Take time to improve your appearance. Be logical.
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Express your finest talents and gain the support of higher-ups. Don't waste time with persons who have selfish interests.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study home conditions and clarify any problems there in a friendly fashion. Make your life as you want it to be.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make it a point to contact persons who can give the advice you need to make greater progress in career matters.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Ideal day to handle monetary affairs and increase your security in the future. Give more attention to close ties.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can easily make an excellent impression on others at this time. Accept social invitations and dress in good taste.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Think over your ideas for the future and make plans to profit by them. Consult an expert for advice you need.
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Good time to get together with friends and make mutual plans for the future. Take no chances with one who opposes you.
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she could be easily spoiled, so teach your progeny to stand on own two feet and make the most of the God-given talents. Would do well in the field of entertainment. Teach to set a goal and then to follow through.
"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

Tennis Talk

How to improve backhand

By Maureen Stalla

Many intermediate players complain about their backhands, while they continuously crunch forehands over the net they resort to defensive slices. When the ball comes to the other side don't give up—once you get your topspin backhand, you will really enjoy it. In fact, you'll be running around your forehand to hit more backhands.

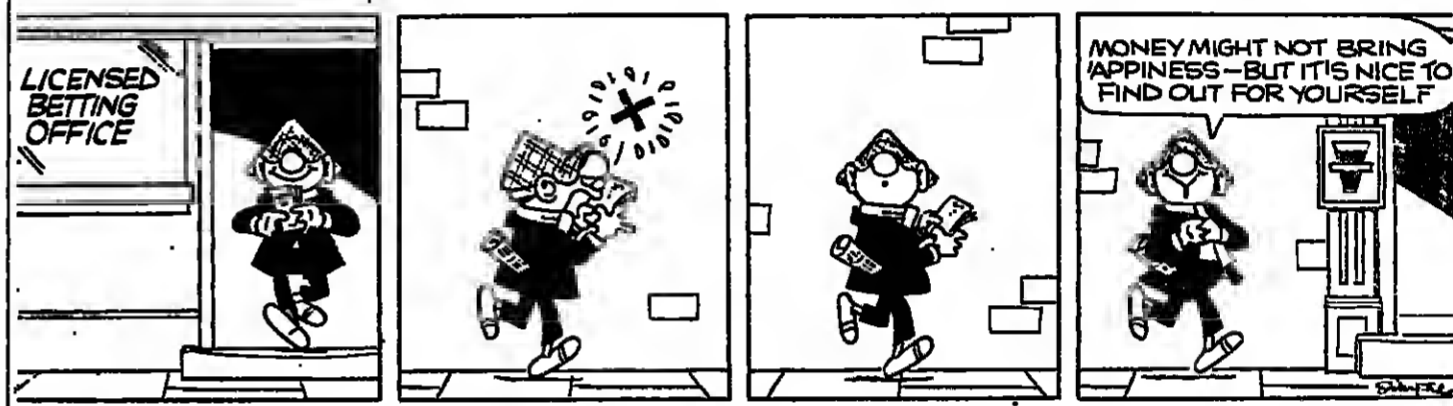
GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
© 1981 by Chicago Tribune
DEAR MR. GOREN
Q.—I know that you play four-card majors, and that you stress these methods in your books. You have also maintained that there is not all that much difference between a four-card and five-card major structure. My teacher claims that you are talking through your hat, and that your methods are hopelessly outdated... no matter what you say in your columns. I'd like to hear your answer—L. Joseph, Brooklyn, N.Y.
(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)
A.—If I had to choose between talking through my hat or wearing it pulled down over my ears so I can't hear what people say, there's no doubt about which I would choose.
By and large, it does not make much difference what system you play. Find something that is comfortable and compatible for both you and your regular partner and speed some time going over your bidding agreements to make sure that there will be no misunderstandings.
Then forget about system and concentrate on mastering the fundamentals of contract bridge. Winning bridge players are those who make fewest errors. It is better to play the world's worst system faultlessly than to make errors trying to learn the most complicated system, even if it is also the best in the world.
I would like to make just one point in defense of my stand on this subject. At the recent Spring North American Championships, B. Jay Becker came out of retirement to play on a team in the Vanderbilt Team Championship. At the tender age of 77, he was making his first appearance in a national event in five years. Mr. Becker, as he is known to his friends, plays four-card majors with a minimum of conventional bids. Indeed, it was not all that long ago that he was convinced to adopt the Stayman Convection—he claims that he was always able to get along without it.
Mr. Becker played with each of the other four players on his team. He faced many of the country's leading players, experts on systems such as Precision, the Orange Clo, Eastern Scieotif with its five-card majors and forcing on trump, and the exotic Polish Pass. At the end of six grueling days, it was Mr. Becker and his teammates who emerged triumphant. Who knows. Had he been playing five-card majors and modern methods rather than "hopelessly outdated" ones, he too might have been among the also-rans.
Q.—What do you lead from an ace-king combination against a suit contract? I led the king and was roundly criticized for it—B. Fox, Charleston, S.C.
A.—There is little to choose between leading the ace and leading the king. I still go by the old fashioned method and lead the king, but I recognize that proponents of leading the ace have sound arguments on their side. Experts are more or less evenly divided about the merits of the two methods.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



"Judging from her lack of clothing, Miss July must be expecting a real scorcher!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
SCERS
DEPTY
MINUME
HISMAF
Answer: YOUR OWN
Yesterday's Jumbles: OXIDE GULLY DEFAE ANYWAY Answer: No aim can produce this kind of fruit—LEMON

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS 1 Cushions 28 Light 46 Canal or hat 11 Moving picture 5 Family car 30 Slow 48 Patron 12 Flower part 10 Political 31 Flap 49 Adhered 13 Acting cartoonist 34 Comeback 51 Sleep 14 Omnium-gatherum 35 Village 53 Scottish cap 21 Descriptive of the bee 15 Marble or Toklas 36 Period 56 Fixed routine 22 Cod's cousin 16 Awaful 37 Extremely: Scot. 57 Goes bankrupt 24 Hwallan port 17 Breakfast fare 38 Body part 59 Front 26 Come up 18 Songbird 39 River in Europe 60 Baking chamber 27 Wolfe the sleuth 19 Demeanor 40 Canals 61 Chubby 28 Subdue 20 Asian people 41 Thompson of fiction 62 Greek vowel 29 Asian capital 21 Despicable 42 Clergyman 64 Harass 32 Of the region 33 Wilkes 22 Overly dramatic 43 That man 65 insect 35 Sln City 23 Ruffian 44 Particle 66 Business deal 36 Farewell 25 Trudeau's land 45 Business deal 38 River in France 39 River in France 41 Spilled the beans 42 Sleeveless garment 43 Apple variety 47 Concerning Olympic region 49 Harvest 50 Affection 52 Otherwise 54 Ambracian gulf 55 Veal or pork 57 Watch part 58 Honest 59 Fruit

WORLD

Kremlin's alarm over Solidarity statements voiced through Pravda

GDANSK, Sept. 9 (R) — The powerful Warsaw branch of the Solidarity trade union said today it planned to call for what would amount to free parliamentary elections in Poland.

The branch said it would submit a proposal to the union's national congress demanding unlimited and unrestricted rights of candidates for parliament and local councils.

The branch said it would submit a proposal to the union's national congress demanding unlimited and unrestricted rights of candidates for parliament and local councils.

The official news agency PAP said in its English-language service that yesterday's congress decision on worker self management raised the danger of confrontation.

The union voted to challenge the authorities to hold a referendum on the issue. Meanwhile, the official Moscow press today bit out at Solidarity but implicitly denied that Soviet military manoeuvres around Poland's borders were intended to intimidate the reformers.

The attack clearly indicated Kremlin alarm over the political course of the congress.

But the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, in an apparent response to Western press comments, said the Soviet military exercises, involving almost 100,000 troops, were purely routine.

Western diplomats said the Solidarity congress vote of support yesterday for the establishment of free trade unions throughout the Soviet bloc seemed to open a new dimension in the organisation's activity, which would seriously alarm the Kremlin.

One diplomat described it as "to some degree provocative."

The diplomats agreed that the anti-Soviet tone of some congress speeches and calls to limit Communist Party control over the Polish media could heighten Soviet pressure on Warsaw for a curb on Solidarity.

The diplomats said the arrival of the Warsaw Pact defence ministers yesterday to watch the exercises could be seen as a gesture of unity. But they cautioned there was no evidence to suggest that their presence was linked with events in Poland.

And Solidarity sent an envoy to New York yesterday to open its first office abroad without informing the Polish government.

The office is being set up with help from U.S. unions and Solidarity envoy Zygmunt Przetakiewicz said the union did not tell the Polish authorities in advance of its plans because "We are an independent organisation."

He said his job would be to supply American newspapers and television with reports on Solidarity telefaxed from Warsaw, an operation apparently without precedent in the foreign affairs of a Warsaw Pact country.

The United Federation of Teachers, one of many contributors to a fund set up by U.S. unions to aid Solidarity, has loaned him an office in its headquarters.

After news of the mission became public, Mr. Przetakiewicz went to the Polish consulate in New York. He told Reuters after meeting the consul for an hour "They have nothing against it. They don't see any problems and they said they would like to help us."

Polish officials meet financial experts from the country's leading Western creditors in Paris today to brief them on the state of the economy and discuss the problem of repaying Poland's heavy debt.

Czech president on tour to make a few points

VIENNA, Sept. 9 (R) — A visit by Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak to Libya, Ethiopia and South Yemen — three pro-Soviet countries which recently signed an anti-United States pact — could reflect increased Czechoslovak involvement in Africa, according to diplomatic sources in Prague.

Until recently, East Germany played the prominent East European role in Africa, fronting for the Soviet Union which keeps a lower profile, the sources said. But they added that while Dr. Husak's tour could be a gesture of support for the anti-U.S. policies of Libya, Ethiopia and South Yemen, it should also be seen as a routine Czechoslovak effort at expanding economic ties with developing countries.

The composition of Dr. Husak's delegation, including two ministers involved in foreign trade and the army chief of staff, also indicated that trade, as well as arms sales, would be the main subject of negotiations, the sources added.

Czechoslovakia is a major supplier of arms to several African countries and pursues a general policy of free arms trading. Relations between Czechoslovakia and all three countries on Dr. Husak's itinerary have expanded during the last 10 years and Prague is playing an increasing role in economic aid to Ethiopia and South Yemen.

A long-term trade agreement signed with Libya in 1974 provided for exports of a wide range of Czechoslovak goods and services, including medical care in exchange for the purchase of up to a million tonnes of Libyan crude oil a year between 1975 and 1985. Czechoslovakia and Ethiopia signed an economic pact in 1978.

Kabul said to control important Afghan town

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 9 (A.P.) — A joint Soviet-Afghan force has recaptured the strategic town of Gulbazar, 70 kilometres north of Kabul, and was last reported pushing into the insurgent-held Panjshir Valley, a Western diplomatic source said today.

The exact number of casualties was not known but "almost certainly high," said the source, quoting a report from the Afghan capital. An Afghan contact mentioned by the report described the number of wounded Soviet and Afghan soldiers brought to Kabul as "unprecedented in recent times."

Gulbazar, a textile-producing town located a few kilometres northeast of the important Salang Highway linking the Soviet border with Kabul and at the mouth of the Panjshir Valley, reportedly has been in resistance hands for months.

Two French photographers, Jerome Bony and Christophe de Pomilly, said on their return from the area that Afghan guerrillas began withdrawing from Gulbazar during a heavy battle 12 days ago.

The Western diplomatic source, who declined to be identified, could not say when the town had been retaken but indicated that news of its fall reached Kabul during the past week. There have been at least three previous attempts to wrest control of the Panjshir from the guerrillas, all unsuccessful.

He said the report gave no estimate of the joint Afghan Soviet force's strength but quoted a well-placed Afghan as saying that a Soviet regiment of about 1,500 men was in the area.

Helicopter gunships were reported protecting workers sent to repair bridges and remove boulders obstructing the entrance to the Panjshir ("Five Lions") Valley, the source added.

The fighting has triggered a flood of refugees, the diplomatic source said.

Mao's tomb shut on 5th anniversary

PEKING, Sept. 9 (R) — A single wreath in Tian An Men square marked the fifth anniversary today of chairman Mao Tsetung's death.

The wreath on the memorial to revolutionary heroes bore the message: "Our great leader Chairman Mao lives eternally in the hearts of the people", and was signed Sun Yunhua and Zhang Guangyu.

A guard said Sun and Zhang were ordinary Peking workers. He knew no more about them.

The anniversary was otherwise ignored and the mausoleum where Mao's body lies embalmed was closed, as it has been for several weeks.

Many of Mao's policies have been repudiated since his death, especially in the economic field, but a document published on July 1 said his positive achievements were primary, and his errors secondary.

But the tendency in the past few weeks has been to emphasise Mao's achievements as a new campaign gets under way to criticise "bourgeois liberalism".

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Spy asks judge to drop charges

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (R) — An air force missile officer accused of passing secrets to the Soviet Union has asked a court-martial judge to drop the charges on the grounds that he had been given immunity in return for a confession. Second lieutenant Christopher Cooke, 25, said through his lawyers yesterday the air force promised it would not prosecute if he revealed what information he gave the Soviet embassy, allowing officials to determine which U.S. secrets were compromised. He was deputy commander of a Titan II missile launch crew at a Kansas air force base before his arrest. But the lawyer said the air force reneged and three charges of espionage and 11 of disobeying orders were filed against Mr. Cooke, making him liable on conviction to 52 years in prison, dismissal and forfeiture of all pay. Mr. Cooke's lawyer told the judge that when the head of Strategic Air Command, Gen. Richard Ellis, discovered the extent of the data passed to the Russians he realised there had been a major breach of security. The defence lawyer claimed the air force decided to go back on its promise and prosecute when it "realised it had immunised the only spy in the ring and had no one to prosecute".

Two Wit Kommandos convicted

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 9 (R) — Two members of an extreme right-wing South African movement, the Wit Kommando (White Commando), were convicted yesterday on charges of sabotage and possessing stolen arms. The two white men, one an Italian citizen, told the supreme court they had built up a vast arsenal, including limpet mines, land mines, rifles and hand grenades, to use once blacks had overthrown the white government. The Italian, Massimo Bollo, was convicted on 13 charges which included sabotage and acts of terrorism, while his companion, Fabio Mariello, was found guilty on four charges, including receiving weapons stolen from the South African Defence Force. Their activities included a bomb attack on the Transkei Consulate in Port Elizabeth, exploding a bomb at the office of a white sociologist and arson attacks on a drive-in movie compound and the offices of the South African institute of race relations.

Rome paper on Iranian executions

ROME, Sept. 9 (A.P.) — Hundreds of young people who are opponents of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini are tortured and sentenced to death for refusing to give their names to authorities, according to the left-leaning Rome newspaper La Repubblica. The paper, in a despatch from what it said was "an informed, authoritative resident of Tehran" described a mother's search for her 15-year-old son, accused of taking part in an anti-government demonstration. After a day, in the office of the Justice Ministry, the mother saw a photo of her son with hundreds of others. La Repubblica said "Five black holes were visible in his chest. Written under the photo: Accused of not revealing his identity. Condemned to immediate death by firing squad." The newspaper said the young people refuse to give their names to authorities because they thought the government will take action against their relatives if they do.

Thatcher-Mitterrand meet expected to be trouble-free

LONDON, Sept. 9 (R) — Britain hopes to establish a better working relationship with France in two days of talks between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand which begin in London tomorrow, officials said.

Mrs. Thatcher is a right-wing conservative and leading exponent of monetarist economic policy, while Mr. Mitterrand is a socialist who believes in deflation to cure Europe's steadily rising unemployment. But clashes between them are not expected.

Instead Britain is hoping, and expecting, that the two countries will get along much better now that Mr. Mitterrand has taken over as president from Valery Giscard d'Estaing, informed sources said.

British officials privately admit that Mrs. Thatcher found Mr. Giscard d'Estaing very difficult. "We had only to mention the need for a reform of the European Economic Community's common agricultural policy for president Giscard to accuse us of trying to destroy the Common Market," one of them said.

Mr. Mitterrand's views are still unknown on the biggest problem facing the EEC: How to restructure its budget and reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which eats up 70 per cent of the community budget in subsidising farmers.

Britain expects Mr. Mitterrand to be more pragmatic and flexible than Mr. Giscard on the budget and CAP issue, according to informed sources.

Britain believes that Mr. Mitterrand will take France, pulled out of NATO's military structure by the late president Charles de Gaulle, closer to the North Atlantic alliance.

The French president is coming to London with a team of six cabinet ministers which, in addition to Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and Finance Minister Jacques Delors, will include the Communist Transport Minister Charles Fiterman.

Officials said the two governments may take a new look at various ideas for building a tunnel under the channel between England and France.

Row over Miss Zimbabwe semifinals; Salisbury gets 1st black campus dean

SALISBURY, Sept. 9 (A.P.) — A race row has erupted in Zimbabwe whether a black or a white beauty queen should wear the Miss Zimbabwe crown at the Miss World contest in London in November.

Three days before the Miss Zimbabwe finals, some black Zimbabweans charge the white organisers are rigging the contest to guarantee a white will win.

Some claim only ugly or fat black girls were picked by the organisers to compete against the most glamorous white beauties. National organiser Tim Horgan, an Irish-born restaurateur and businessman, said in an interview with the pro-government Herald newspaper here today he had "come under pressure from certain non-governmental quarters to have another black Miss Zimbabwe."

Last year's Miss Zimbabwe, crowned a few months after the former white-ruled colony of Rhodesia became independent black-governed Zimbabwe, was Shirley Nyanyiva, a black who became a finalist in the Miss World contest.

Before that, virtually all beauty queens were whites or coloured (mixed race).

The results of last Friday's Mashonaland province semifinals of this year's competition sparked the row that is already the talk of the town. Five whites and one coloured were chosen by a panel of judges — three blacks, two whites eliminating all five black contestants.

Today's main page 1 story in the Herald quoted an unnamed government official complaining that prettier white girls were chosen to ensure a black did not become Miss Zimbabwe. The report took precedence over the Angolan crisis and the appointment of the first black head of the 23-year-old university of Zimbabwe.

"The judging was quite fair," Oliver Chimpenya, a public relations officer and one of the black judges told the Associated Press in a telephone interview yesterday.

Judge Chimpenya, noting that would-be contestants had to spend "a lot of money" on gowns, bathing suits, colour photographs and hair-dos, noted that few black

girls could afford to enter the beauty contest.

"The organisers should in future financially assist all entrants equally so there will be no rows like this one," he said. Meanwhile, an American-graduated law professor was appointed yesterday as the first black head of Zimbabwe's only university.

Zimbabwean-born Prof. Walter Joseph Kamba, 49, was installed as vice chancellor and principal at a ceremony, and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe called for "a radical and revolutionary change" in the 23-year-old university. Mr. Kamba, who took his law degree at Yale University in the United States in 1964, practised as an attorney in this former white-ruled British colony of Rhodesia and lectured in law at universities in London and Dundee in Scotland before returning here as second vice-principal June 1980.

He described his new post as "one of the hottest seats in the university world" in the midst of political, social and economic change.

W. German intelligence sceptical of alleged KGB involvement in attempt on Pope's life

BONN, Sept. 9 (R) — West German security authorities have cast serious doubts on reports that Western intelligence suspects the Soviet KGB of inspiring the attempted killing of Pope John Paul II. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, West Germany's counter-intelligence and anti-terrorist agency, said allegations in the British news media about a Soviet role in the attack were viewed as speculation.

British newspapers and television reported last week that the Vatican was convinced the KGB had a hand in the attack, with the aim of silencing the Pope at a sensitive time in the Polish crisis. The Times of London said Western intelligence, particularly West Germany's, was backing the theory.

But West German and other intelligence experts said the methods used in the May 13 attack by Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca were hard to reconcile with the way the KGB operated.

"If they had wanted to kill the Pope, and I can't imagine they would, they would have chosen someone more efficient than Agca," one said.

The would-be assassin failed to kill the Pope even though he was using a relatively accurate Browning 9-m.m. Parabellum at short range. A professional would not have let the Pope survive, the source said.

Intelligence contacts also found it hard to believe that Moscow would gain from the Polish Pope's death.

Any evidence of a KGB role in such a killing would have a catastrophic impact in Poland, one said. "It would be highly counter-productive."

Informants acknowledged that Agca reported stay in Bulgaria, during 18 months travelling around Europe and the Middle East before the attack, was a possible starting point for theories about East European involvement.

Agca told Italian investigators, according to transcripts made available to the press, that he spent 40 to 45 days in Bulgaria, which ranks as one of Moscow's staunchest allies.

While there, Agca said, he met another Turk, Omer Mersan, who had helped him to obtain the forged Turkish passport he used to enter Italy. Agca said Mersan, who lived in Munich, had later sent him to Tunisia to contact a Turkish-speaking Bulgarian identified only as

Mustafef

At their meeting in a luxury hotel Mustafef had asked Agca if he would assassinate Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who were due to meet shortly. Agca told investigators he refused because he felt security was too tight.

Agca's account was corroborated on just one point by Mersan, who was detained by Munich police on May 21 and held overnight. The city public prosecutor's office said he told them he did meet Agca in Sofia the previous July. But it was only by chance, as might happen with any compatriot abroad, and he denied helping Agca to acquire a passport.

The prosecutor's office said the investigation was now closed since no link had been found with the Rome attack.

Intelligence sources said Bulgarian security, which helped West Germany to track down four suspected terrorists at a Bulgarian resort in 1978, would certainly have documentation on Agca's stay. But that did not amount to proof of complicity in the assassination attempt, they said. One source saw a parallel with the period which Lee Harvey Oswald, presumed killer of president John Kennedy, once spent working in the Soviet Union.

"We haven't got a shred of hard evidence to link the East bloc with any recent Third-World-style terrorism in the West," said another intelligence source.

The Vatican, the Italian government and officials involved in the Agca investigation have repeatedly said there was not the slightest evidence to support the theory involving the KGB.

Rome government sources recalled an earlier Soviet allegation made by the magazine "USSR Today," which named the CIA as a possible plotter to kill the Pope because of his opposition to U.S. policies in El Salvador.

"It appears that at this moment both secret services are trying to discredit each other as much as possible," they said.

However Agca has left many questions unanswered and the Rome prosecutor's office said the life sentence passed on him in July did not close the case.

"The hypothesis of an international plot to kill the Pope has never been put aside," it said in an official statement.

THE Weekend Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of clues such as 'Diplomatic', 'African river', 'Field', 'Place for sheep', etc.

Diagrams section with clues for words like 'Judicial proceedings', 'Adjective suffix', 'Meditation', etc.

Cryptograms section with four puzzles and their solutions. Includes clues like 'Frustrated Franklin didn't know we would see electricity as unbegrudgingly', 'Boy's true-blue friend was yellow, and turned green when asked to fight his bid', etc.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.